Recently an official delegation was deputed to China to pursue the matter further.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The two major initiatives of Government of India in regard to bridging the digital divide, consist of setting up Media Lab Asia for delivering emerging technologies in direct services of masses, and setting up 487 Community Information Centres in the eight North Eastern States.

MoU between India and Singapore

4534. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Singapore have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in telecom sector;

(b) if so, whether this was signed during the Prime Minsiter's visit to Singapore;

(c) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of areas identified in the agreement, are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(d) The Joint Working Group will be set up for the implementation of the proposal identified in the MoU of the Telecom Sector.

Statement

Details of the area identified in the agreement in telecom sector

(i) The exchange of information on Telecommunications policy and regulation.

(ii) the exchange of scientific and technical information and exchange of views on Telecommunications;

(iii) The exchange of scientific and technical information on improvements achieved in the scientific-research work, as well as industry implementation of diversified research programmes being of common interest to both the countries;

(iv) The exchange of information and fostering of discussion on new and modern technologies in the field of Telecommunications;

(v) The exchange of information on current international legislation related to the field of Telecommunications being of interest of the two countries;

(vi) The exchange of information in the field of Spectrum Management and Standardization;

(vii) The promotion of investments in the Telecommunications sector of the two Parties;

(viii) The fostering of industry joint venture in the field of Telecommunications *via* projects in either country or in other countries;

(ix) The fostering of relations between business and regulatory agencies in the Telecommunications sector.

Waiting list for telephone connections in Madurai

4535. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of waiting list of telephone connections in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu, exchange-wise;

(b) whether any new telephone exchange is proposed to be opened at Madurai during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a)